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Berlin, Cuba and Gen. Eisenhower

STATINTL

Fireworks were predicted when a delegation of first-term GOP congressmen went to Gettysburg Monday to tour the Civil War battlefield and talk with President Eisenhower.

The State Department had issued a booklet, "Background Berlin—1961," which seemed to say that if it hadn't been for Eisenhower, then the supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe, Berlin might have fallen in 1945 to American or British troops rather than Russians.

The former president, or at least so Republicans in Congress said, was angered by what seemed to be an implication that the trouble over Berlin could be laid at his door, and would make the visit by the congressional freshmen an occasion for voicing his resentment.

The fireworks didn't materialize. Maybe it was because in the meantime Secretary of State Dean Rusk had called Mr. Eisenhower and apologized for any "misapprehension" the State Department booklet might have caused. In any event, the former president showed no anger when the matter was brought up at Gettysburg. It wasn't certain that his forces could have been first in Berlin even if the effort had been made, he said, and the fact that they weren't probably made no great difference anyhow because the decision for the partition of Germany into occupation zones, of which

invasion but for bungling its execution and failing to give it adequate support.

But on Monday, talking to the visiting congressmen, General Eisenhower said "there was absolutely no planning for an invasion (of Cuba) in my administration."

This is an amazing statement, contradicting everything heretofore said by anyone who had anything to do with the venture.

Perhaps Mr. Eisenhower only meant to say that no plans were "finalized," to borrow a piece of gobbledygook he has sometimes used. But even that would seem out of accord with the record, so far as it is known. Planning was undoubtedly done and the former president's statement raises the question whether it was done by the Central Intelligence Agency and others in his administration without his full knowledge. If that is the case it is a matter that would seem to warrant further inquiry into the Cuban fiasco, perhaps with Mr. Eisenhower as a witness.

However, it may be doubted that there would be much real good in that. No doubt we ought to examine past mistakes and learn from them. But too often the search is more for political capital than for facts helpful in reaching future decisions. Mistakes were evidently made in respect to both Germany and Cuba, but fixing the blame for them is of much less importance than ours. Besides requiring an original discovery in a new field, recipients must have taught for 10 to 15 years. Not surprisingly, their average age is 45.

In addition, Russian universities have a "candidate of science" degree, of which 7,000 were awarded to graduate students last year. This is slightly lower than the American Ph.D., but more advanced than the master's de-

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